



KANSAS VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT STRATEGIC PLAN

KANSAS FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2015-2017 VOCA AWARDS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE STATE
OF KANSAS
AUGUST 9, 2015

Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan 2015-2017

I. Introduction

The Kansas Governor has designated the Governor's Grants Program as the State Administering Agency for the Federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program. The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds are made available to Kansas through the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.

The VOCA funds are used by eligible public agencies, nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations to provide direct services to crime victims as established by 42 U.S.C. §10601 *et seq.*

The Governor's Office mission for the Victims of Crime Act funding is to assure crime victims in Kansas receive services that: (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization; (3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety. A "crime victim" is a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime.

The Governor's Grants Program is dedicated to ensuring a **S.A.F.E.** Kansas where:

- Services are available and accessible in every community;
- Accountability of all systems, agencies, programs and individuals is provided;
- Funding is provided for adequate resources; and
- Empowerment of individuals is encouraged.

The Victims of Crime Act program supports communities in their efforts to respond to crime victims. Funds from this grant program are used to hire, train, and retain victim services personnel who respond to crime victims, as well as provide emergency shelter, emergency legal assistance, mental health counseling, and expand crisis response infrastructure.

This plan document seeks to identify the needs and priorities regarding victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child physical and sexual abuse, and victims of underserved crimes. Planning is especially critical to maximize the impact of these grant funds and focus on programs that will be most effective. Kansas is committed to coordinating the allocation of VOCA funding and other victim service funds to make a significant impact toward the achievement of Kansas' goals. This plan provides a blueprint for the Federal Fiscal Years 2015-2017 to comprehensively address the identified needs and priorities of crime victims in Kansas. This document includes an overview of the planning process, identified victim needs, plan priorities, and plan goals.

II. Description of Planning Process

The Governor's Grants Program used a comprehensive planning process in the development of the Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategy for the years Federal Fiscal Years 2015-2017, which included:

- Creation of a planning committee of key stakeholders representing various advisory boards, councils, and agencies working to address the needs of crime victims in the state.
- Dissemination of a survey throughout the state to assess the needs of crime victims by demographic area.
- Planning discussions with the planning committee.
 - Review accomplishments
 - Identify needs and prioritizing VOCA funding
 - Goals
- Pre-application workshop to assist interested applicants in preparing applications. Topics include:
 - Identifying needs
 - Establishing goals
 - Creating measurable outcomes
 - Life cycle of a grant

III. Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning

The Kansas strategic planning process began in May 2015 with the announcement of increased VOCA funding to states by the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. The Kansas Governor's Grants Program initiated the planning process by distributing an on-line survey to assess the needs of crime victims and victim service providers throughout the state. The survey was distributed to a wide range of interested parties including all current VOCA subgrantees, representatives of local and state law enforcement, court personnel, city and county government officials, mental health professionals, legal professionals, district and county attorneys, and campus-based social work professionals. Participants were asked to forward the survey on to any other interested professionals. The survey was posted on the State of Kansas website for two weeks. Over 300 responses were received. Appendix A provides a copy of the survey distributed throughout Kansas, a copy of the announcement distributed by the Kansas Governor's Office, and a copy of the survey email announcement.

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The KGGP Administrator invited 17 key stakeholders representing various advisory boards, councils, and agencies working to address the needs of crime victims in Kansas to serve on the Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Planning Committee. These stakeholders represent diverse populations and perspectives. Stakeholders include representatives of crisis service agencies, coalitions, SANE/SART services, county prosecution entities, legal service providers, law enforcement, victim assistance providers, court/judicial system entities, limited-English speaking populations, mental health providers, Tribal entities, and the KGGP. Appendix B provides a list of names, affiliations, and areas of expertise of the stakeholders participating in the strategic planning process.

The purpose of the committee meetings were to establish a basis to (a) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims (b) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization, (c) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system, and (d) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety. In addition, the Committee was charged with providing priorities and goals for VOCA funding within the state for FY2015-2017.

The first phase of the planning process included a review of the achievements of the FY2014 Victims of Crime Act funding in Kansas. Compiled statistical documentation and services offered were viewed and discussed in relation to overall crime statistics in the state. Prior year grant awards were reviewed after which members reviewed the results of the needs assessment survey.

Survey responses were compiled by demographic area and also compiled for an overall view of needs within the state. The purpose of the discussion with the committee was to acquire their input on needs and priorities for the 2015-2017 Kansas Victims of Crime Act Plan. Committee members were asked to review and discuss the survey results relative to their own experiences and expertise. Members were then asked to:

- Assess current victim services.
- View Kansas population maps in regard to current service providers.
- Draw on each Committee member's expertise to identify the needs and priorities in services to crime victims.
- Envision the effects and changes in victim services throughout the state for the next 3 years.
- Envision the effects of the additional funding and opportunities for current Victims of Crime Act subgrantees.
- Consider data collection methods of crime victim service organizations and coalition groups.
- Envision the effects of the additional funding and opportunities for increasing service providers throughout the state.

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- Review funding needs in regard to current Victims of Crime Act Guidelines.
- Identify strategies to reach underserved communities.
- Identify enhancements to recognize and serve current underserved crime victims.
- Establish goals for Kansas FY2015-2017 Victims of Crime Act funding.

IV. Needs and Context

State Profile

Kansas is a Midwestern state with an economy based in agribusiness. The population is largely rural. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2013, Kansas has a population of approximately 2.9 million people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). With more than 81,000 square miles of land, Kansas is the 15th largest state in the nation in terms of geography, however Kansas ranks 33rd in the nation for population (U.S. Census Bureau “United States Summary”). According to the census bureau, 98.8 percent of the land area in Kansas is rural. In 2010, the average persons per square mile for Kansas were 34.9, compared to the national average of 87.4.

Kansas has 105 counties with 36 of those counties designated as “frontier” with fewer than six persons per square mile. Another 32 counties are classified as “rural” with six or more, but less than 19.9 persons per square mile. Twenty-one counties are “densely-settled rural” with 20 or more, but less than 39.9 persons per square mile. Ten counties are “semi-urban with more than 40 but less than 149.9 persons per square mile. The remaining six counties are designated “urban” with 150 or more persons per square mile. (from 2010 census/Source KDHE 2014).

Types of Crimes Committed Against Those Accessing Services

Results of the survey identified victims/survivors of sexual assault and victims/survivors of domestic violence as the categories of victim most frequently accessing services. The Planning Committee also noted that the survey was most likely to be completed by persons affiliated with sexual assault and domestic violence service providers and this might have weighted the results in these categories. Victims of child abuse were also identified as one of the top victim categories seeking services. After discussion and review of survey results, the Planning Committee identified services for human trafficking victims, both sexual and labor trafficking victims, as a funding priority. Discussion of human trafficking victims included review of survey results which identified the victim demographics facing the highest gaps and/or needs in accessing or receiving services. Child victims, youth/teen victims, victims with disabilities, and immigrant victims are groups facing the highest gaps/needs in accessing or receiving services. These are also demographic groups at high

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risk of being human trafficking victims. Available services for victims of elder abuse, DUI, robbery, homicide, and hate crimes were also discussed.

Survivor or Victim Demographic Needs

The rural population is designated as “underserved” for the purpose of the Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan. Census results identified 98.8% of Kansas as “rural”. Because of the problems facing service providers in rural areas; sparse population, scarcity of services, lack of mass transit, transportation costs, etc., the Planning Committee identified survivors in rural areas as a priority. Projects that serve victims in rural areas are a priority for VOCA funding. In addition to victims in rural areas, the Committee also identified the following underserved demographic groups as priorities for VOCA funding:

- Victims/survivors with disabilities
- LGBTQ victims/survivors
- Tribal victims/survivors

As discussed in the **Types of Crimes Committed Against Those Accessing Services Section**, victims of human trafficking were identified as including particularly vulnerable demographic groups. This priority list is not all-inclusive of underserved demographic groups in Kansas. The following groups were also identified as victim demographic groups facing gaps and/or needs in accessing and receiving services: child victims, youth/teen survivors, immigrant/refugee survivors/victims, survivors within communities of color, male survivors, incarcerated victims, campus survivors, and veterans or spouses and children of combat veterans.

Identified Service Needs and/or Gaps in Kansas Communities

The following were identified as the greatest victim service needs and/or gaps in communities within the state: mental health counseling, transitional housing, emergency financial services, shelter capacity, transportation, long-term advocacy, legal services, permanent housing, legal advocacy, support groups, court services/accompaniment, language services, restitution services, SANE – pediatric, SANE – adult, and hospital accompaniment. By enhancing and expanding access to victim services such as crisis response agencies; law enforcement-based advocates; prosecutor-based advocates, both county and city level; many of the service needs and/or gaps could be met or alleviated. The following community needs and/or gaps were identified as those in which enhanced and expanded VOCA-funded victim services would meet/alleviate: transportation, long-term advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, court services/accompaniment, language services, and hospital accompaniment.

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The Committee identified mental health counseling as a priority victim service need and/or gap in Kansas communities. Projects that enhance and expand access to mental health services will be a priority for VOCA funding.

Legal services were also identified as a priority. Legal services provide victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual assault with a measure of safety through Protection Orders and follow-up in the event the orders are violated. Projects that enhance and expand access to legal services will be a priority for VOCA funding.

Identified Service Delivery and Infra-structure Needs

The following are identified service and delivery infrastructure needs for service agencies and programs in Kansas: increase outreach and/or services to underserved populations; increase staff pay and/or benefits; training and training materials; increase FTE; increase marketing tools and/or capacity; translation/interpretation; office expansion; shelter expansion; office repair and/or maintenance; technology-hardware; shelter repair and/or maintenance; technology-other; and technology-software. Projects that enhance and expand crisis response system infra-structure through technology and software/hardware upgrades are a priority funding for VOCA.

As mentioned in Identified Service Needs and/or Gaps in Kansas Communities, priority funding for projects that enhance and expand access to victim services such as crisis response agencies; law enforcement based advocates; prosecutor based advocates, both county and city level; will help meet and alleviate service delivery and infra-structure needs such as increase outreach and/or services to underserved populations. Expanded access to victim services will mean expanded services to underserved populations. Expanded services will also require increased numbers of FTEs.

Enhanced and expanded access to victim services provider training is identified as a priority for Kansas Victims of Crime Act funding. By placing a priority on training for service providers, the Committee seeks to insure the consistency and quality of services to victims as well as increase the capacity of service providers.

V. Goals and Objectives

The Committee envisioned victim services in Kansas throughout the next three years. Goals were developed based on the needs of crime victims within the state and the needs of the service providers. After examining the survey results, utilizing personal experiences in providing victim services, and establishing priorities for VOCA funding, the Committee envisioned the following goals for the next three years:

1. Strengthen availability of services to crime victims throughout Kansas through expansion of existing programs.

This goal will be met through the following Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan 2015-2017 priorities:

- **Enhance and expand access to victim services such as, but not limited to, crisis response agencies, law enforcement based advocates, prosecutor based advocates at both the county and city level.** The number of agencies providing VOCA funded services during FY2014 is 51. Of these, eight are prosecutor based agencies, three are law enforcement based, one is a state corrections based agency, the remaining are community-based crisis response agencies.
 - Crisis response agencies: Increase the number of crisis response agencies from 40 to 45 for FY2015.
 - Law Enforcement based advocates: Increase the number of law enforcement agencies with VOCA-funded advocates from 3 to 8 in FY2015.
 - Prosecutor based advocates: Increase the number of prosecution-based agencies with VOCA-funded advocates from 8 to 13 in FY2015.

2. Strengthen capacity, quality, and consistency of services.

This goal will be met through the following Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan FY2015-2017 priorities:

- **Enhance and expand access to victim services provider training.**
 - FY2015: All VOCA-funded direct service personnel will apply for the Kansas Academy for Victim Assistance within the first month of employment.
 - FY2015: All VOCA-funded direct service personnel employed six months or longer will have attended advocacy-based training during FY2016.
 - All VOCA-funded direct service personnel will attend a minimum of two advocacy based trainings within the first year of employment.

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- **Enhance and expand access to mental health services.**
 - Survey respondents identified mental health counseling as the greatest need and/or gap in Kansas communities.
 - All VOCA-funded service providers are encouraged to contract with local mental health providers for emergency mental health counseling for victims.
 - Mental health service providers seeking VOCA-funding to provide counseling to crime victims will be a priority.
 - **Enhance and expand access to legal services.**
 - All VOCA-funded service providers are encouraged to contract with local legal service providers to provide emergency assistance to crime victims.
 - 100% of victims accessing VOCA-funded domestic violence or sexual assault services will have access to emergency legal assistance to provide protection orders.
 - FY2015: Increase VOCA-funded prosecutor-based advocates from 8 to 13 to provide legal assistance to victims.
 - **Enhance and expand crisis response system infra-structure through technology and software/hardware upgrades.**
 - Technology expansion and enhancements will assist all service providers with reaching out to and providing timely response to victims as well as assisting with case management and required reporting.
 - Funding for projects which include technology upgrades to expand crisis response is a priority.
- 3. Expand services to crime victims in identified underserved communities and to victims of underserved crimes.**

This goal will be met through the following Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan FY2015-2017 priorities:

- **Enhance and expand services to victims of human trafficking, both labor and sex trafficking.** 10% of survey respondents indicated human trafficking as one of the top types of crimes committed against those accessing services most frequently. The goal is to increase the number of human trafficking victims accessing services.
 - FY2015: Increase the number of agencies providing services to victims of human trafficking, including domestic violence and sexual assault service providers, law enforcement based advocates, prosecution based advocates, and child abuse service providers.

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- **Enhance and expand services to underserved communities including but not limited to: rural; victims with disabilities; LGBTQ communities; tribal communities.**
 - FY2015: Expand services to rural areas by increasing the number of crisis response agencies, increasing the number of prosecution based advocates, increasing the number of law enforcement based advocates that provide services to rural communities.
 - FY2015: Increase services to victims with disabilities by:
 - Increasing training funding for victim service personnel to attend training specific to cultural competency and providing services to victims with disabilities.
 - Increase outreach to victims with disabilities.
 - FY2015: Increase services to LBGTQ survivors:
 - Increased training dollars for direct service providers to attend specialized training in providing services to the LBGTQ community.
 - Increase funding for outreach to LBGTQ communities.
 - FY2015: Increase services to Tribal survivors.
 - Increased training dollars for direct service providers to attend specialized training in providing services to the Tribal members.
 - Increase funding for outreach to Tribal communities.

VI. Conclusion

The development of the Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan for 2015-2017 builds upon past and current crime victims' services in Kansas. This plan is a significant step towards influencing the quality and quantity of services provided to crime victims in Kansas. Crime victims are the focus of this plan and services provided to those victims should be available and accessible in every community and to every demographic group. All systems, agencies, programs, and individuals are accountable for providing quality, consistent services for all victims of crime.

Appendix A

Kansas Victims of Crime Act Strategic Plan 2015-2017

Survey

The Federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) allocation to Kansas has dramatically increased. It is very important that we look at how the state can most effectively use this increase to aid crime victims. The Kansas Governor's Grants Program is very interested in learning where the priorities are in victim services, the needs in your community, and any ideas you have to provide services to victims.

As you respond to the survey questions, please keep in mind the overall VOCA purpose of direct and emergency services to victims. VOCA cannot support prosecution activities, prevention, or perpetrator services. A link to the VOCA webpage has been provided as a reference; sections IV. C. and IV. E. would be most relevant to the purpose of this survey: <http://ojp.gov/ovc/voca/vaguide.htm>.

This survey contains 15 questions and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Answers to the survey are confidential and anonymous. No specific identifying information is requested and no efforts will be made to identify any respondent.

Survey results must be submitted no later than Tuesday, June 16th, 2015 by 5:00 pm.

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Your input and comments are important and appreciated.

1. Please indicate the type of Agency or Program you are affiliated with: (Select One)

- Private, nonprofit organization or program
- Shelter
- Rape Crisis
- Hospital
- Criminal or Juvenile Justice Agency
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Corrections
- Tribal Nation Program
- Other (please specify agency, institution, program, etc)

2. What is your primary work role? (Select One)

- Community based administrator
- Community based provider
- System based administrator
- System based provider
- Mental health provider
- Other (please specify)

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3. Select the option that best describes the region served by your agency or program:

- Primarily rural area (population 14,999 or less)
- Midsized city and rural (population 15,000 - 49,999)
- Primarily urban area (population 50,000 or more)
- Statewide

4. Select the answer that best describes the geographic area served by your agency or program:

- City
- County
- Judicial District
- Region (larger than one Judicial District)
- Statewide

5. Indicate the Top 5 types of crimes committed against those accessing services most frequently from your agency or program:

- (Choice #1)
- (Choice #2)
- (Choice #3)
- (Choice #4)
- (Choice #5)

If you selected other as one of the above options, please specify the type of crime.

6. Indicate the Top 5 groups who have the greatest unmet service needs by type of crime:

- (Choice #1)
- (Choice #2)
- (Choice #3)
- (Choice #4)
- (Choice #5)

If you selected other as one of the above options, please specify the group by type of crime.

7. Indicate the Top 5 survivor or victim demographic groups in your service area facing the highest gaps and/or needs in accessing and/or receiving services:

- (Choice #1)
- (Choice #2)
- (Choice #4)
- (Choice #3)
- (Choice #5)

If you selected other as one of the above options, please specify the survivor or victim demographic group.

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8. Explain how an increase in funding would be used to reach the groups identified in questions 5- 7.

Response limit (1,000 characters or approx. 500 words)

9. Indicate the Top 5 greatest service needs and/or gaps in your community:

(Choice #1)

(Choice #2)

(Choice #4)

(Choice #3)

(Choice #5)

If you selected other as one of the above options, please specify the need or gap existing in your community.

10. Indicate the Top 5 greatest service delivery and infrastructure needs for your agency or program:

(Choice #1)

(Choice #2)

(Choice #3)

(Choice #4)

(Choice #5)

If you selected other as one of the above options, please specify the service delivery and infrastructure need for your agency or program.

11. Explain how an increase in funding would be used to meet the needs identified in questions 9 - 10.

Response limit (1,000 characters or approx. 500 words)

12. What training(s) would assist you in meeting the service needs and/or gaps you identified?

Response limit (1,000 characters or approx. 500 words)

13. Indicate any issues or barriers that would prevent your agency or program from submitting a 2016 VOCA application:

Ineligibility

Access to match resources (cash or in-kind)

Management capacity to comply with reporting requirements

Governing body approval

Sustainability

Other

If you selected Ineligibility, please specify.

If you selected other, please specify the issue or barrier.

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14. What trends or innovations in serving crime victims or survivors do you see emerging within the next five years that could not be adequately addressed with the current level of financial resources?

Response limit (1,000 characters or approx. 500 words)

15. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your agency/program or community needs for additional or new VOCA assistance funds?

Response limit (1,000 characters or approx. 500 words)

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Governor's Office Announcement

From: media@ks.gov [<mailto:media@ks.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 11:03 AM

To: Cowing, Shawn [GO]

Subject: Governor's Grant Program announces federal Victims of Crime Act award and seeks community input

Capitol Building
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Phone: (785) 296-3232
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Sam Brownback, Governor

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2015

For more information:

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Governor's Grant Program announces federal Victims of Crime Act award and seeks community input

TOPEKA -- Governor Sam Brownback's Grant Program today announced the state is receiving \$17.9 million through the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This award represents a sizable increase from the 2014 award of \$4.4 million. As the Governor's Grant Program looks to most effectively use the increased funding, they ask community leaders to share local priorities and service needs by completing a [brief survey](#).

The purpose of VOCA funding is to reach out with compassionate, skilled, and effective responses to victims who have suffered physical, sexual, emotional, and financial harm as a result of crime. To learn more about VOCA, please visit the [Governor's webpage](#).

###

Click below to connect on the Governor's Social Networks:



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Survey Announcement

The Federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) allocation to Kansas has dramatically increased. It is very important that we look at how the state can most effectively use this increase to aid crime victims. The Kansas Governor's Grants Program is very interested in learning where the priorities are in victim services, the needs in your community, and any ideas you have to provide services to victims. Please utilize the link below to complete a short survey.

Thank you for your participation.

You may be receiving more than one copy of this email as we are working hard to connect with everyone in the state and thank you for your understanding.

SURVEY Link- <http://grants.ks.gov/voca-survey>

If you are interested in learning more about the Victims of Crime Act a link to the VOCA webpage is provided for your reference <http://www.grants.ks.gov/opportunities/federal-victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-grant-%28voca%29>.

You may be receiving more than one copy of this email as we are working hard to connect with everyone in the state and thank you for your understanding. In an effort to get as many responses as possible, we are asking that you forward this email and survey link to agency staff as well as other victim service providers, law enforcement, county or district attorneys, or other service providers working with crime victims.

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"Creating S.A.F.E. Communities"



Appendix B

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Kansas Victims of Crime Strategic Planning Committee

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>TITLE</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> | <u>AREA OF EXPERTISE</u> |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Tiffanie Askew | Office Manager | Ford County Attorney's Office | County Prosecution Entity |
| Joyce Grover | Executive Director | Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence | Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition |
| Marilyn Harp | Executive Director | Kansas Legal Services | Legal Services |
| Ed Klumpp | Chairman, KCJIS | Police Chief and Sheriffs Association | Law Enforcement Representative |
| Shawn Cowing | Administrator | KGGP | Other |
| Kay Steward | Analyst | KGGP | Other |
| Joan Proctor | Victim Assistance Training Coordinator | Kansas Attorney General's Office | Victim Assistance |
| Jeff Weible | Captain | Wichita Police Department | Law Enforcement |
| Justin Shaw | Executive Director | Kansas City Anti-Violence Project | Service Provider |
| Wade Dixon | Magistrate Judge | Judge in Greeley County | Court/Judicial System |
| Jeff Wagaman | Executive Director | AG's Office | Crime Victims Compensation |
| Karen Smart | MADD | Victim Specialist | Underserved Victims |
| Mark Dodd | Executive Director | KS. Gaming Commission | Tribal Entity |
| Joy Thomas | SANE/SART Supervisor | Stormont Vail | SANes/Hospital |
| Andrea Perdomo-Morales | VP Of Family Services & Support | Mattie Rhodes | Underserved Population |
| Marla Baldwin | Clinical Director | The Family Conservancy | Mental Health |
| Staci Leonard | Assistant Director | Family Crisis Services | SA/DV Service Provider |
| Jayne Morris-Hardeman | Executive Director | Sunflower CASA/CAC, Manhattan | Child Abuse |
| Jennie Marsh LMSW | Director of Field Education | University of Kansas | Campus |